[English]

Fraud in Banks

*57. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the answer given to Starred Question No. 422 dated December 20, 1996 and state:

(a) the organisational set up of the vigilance machinery in the State Bank of India and the number of cases of corruption, dishonesty and assets disproportionate to known income investigated by the Vigilance Department during 1995-96;

(b) the number of officers (Grade-wise) involved in such cases;

(c) the number of complaints received for corruption, dishonesty and fraud in 1995 and 1996 and action taken thereon;

(d) whether the vigilance section initiated any action suo moto against the staff suspected to be dishonest and corrupt;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the State Bank of India have made any review of the functioning of powers of the vigilance section under their control; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Vigilance Department at apex level in the State Bank of India (SBI) is headed by Chief Vigilance Officer (CVO), in the rank of Chief General Manager. He is assisted by two Deputy General Managers and other officers of the rank of Assistant General Manager/Chief Manager. At the local head offices, the Vigilance Department is headed by Deputy General Manager and after initial process of the vigilance cases relating to officers of the concerned Circle a reference is made to the Central Office.

During the year 1995-96, investigations from vigilance angle were carried out in 658 cases which inter alia includes frauds committed by the officials, irregular sanction of advances in violation of laid down procedures, pecuniary benefits obtained by the officials and knowingly allowing pecuniary gains to the outsiders at the cost of the bank.

(b) Vigilance disciplinary proceedings were initiated against 648 officers during the year 1995-96 and the grade-wise position is as under:

Junior Management Grade	182
Middle Management Grade	349
Senior Managment Grade	89
Top Executive Grade	28
Total	648

(c) During the years 1995-96 and 96-97, 1421 complaints were received. During the same period disciplinary proceedings were completed and various penalties imposed on 1314 officers.

(d) and (e) According to SBI the Vigilance Department in SBI takes steps to ensure that a close watch is maintained to weed out the dishonest and corrupt from the system. These steps include maintaining an agreed list of officers suspected to be dishonest, scrutiny of statements of assets and liabilities submitted by the officers and carrying out spot audit, inspection and investigation whenever any irregularity is detected.

(f) and (g) The functioning of the vigilance department is reviewed by the Board of Directors of State Bank of India at half-yearly intervals. The powers of the disciplinary authorities are also reviewed by the bank from time to time. The pending vigilance disciplinary cases are also reviewed by the bank from time to time. The pending vigilance disciplinary cases are also reviewed at the local head offices by the Circle Management Committee headed by the Chief General Manager and at the Apex Level, by a Committee headed by the Managing Director of the bank.

Longwall Mining Projects

*58. PROF. RITA VERMA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Longwall Mining Projects of Coal India Ltd;

(b) the annual production capacity thereof;

(c) whether production of coal is taking place as per their capacity;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the details of new Longwall Mining projects proposed to be set up during 1997-98?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) and (b) At present 10 longwall powered support faces with a total annual rated capacity of 4.90 million tonnes (61356 TPD) are operating in four projects of Coal India Limited (CIL).

(c) and (d) It is a fact that performance of longwall powered support faces is not as was originally envisaged. The factors responsible for poor performance of longwall faces are as under:-

(i) When the longwall technology was introduced in CIL projects, imported longwall powered support equipment, mainly from U.K. sources, were procured and installed. Absorbing any new technology transfer takes time. Assimilation of new technology and the learning process was a factor affecting performance of the longwall faces.

(ii) Complexity of the geo-mining conditions having